

Appl. No. 10/017,504
Amdt. dated September 1, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2171

PATENT

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-19 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Interview with Examiners

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Safet Metjahic and Cindy Nguyen for the telephonic interview conducted for this application on August 27, 2004.

The Claims

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 11, as amended, comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,446,061 to Doerre et al. ("Doerre").

Applicants respectfully submit that Doerre does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as claimed. During the telephonic interview, Applicant's representatives discussed Doerre and a prospective claim 1. During the discussions, Examiner Metjahic acknowledged that Doerre did not anticipate the present invention as claimed in the prospective claim 1, and further agreed to enter an amendment after final rejection relating thereto. Claim 1 has been amended as proposed to Examiners. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed for at least these reasons.

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Independent claims 11 and 19 should be allowed for a similar rationale as discussed for claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5-10, 12-13, and 15-18, which are depend from claims 1 and 11, should be allowable for at least this reason, as well as the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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